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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Christian Büchler and Marten Kabutz  
5 Filed: Herewith  
For: APPARATUS FOR SCANNING OPTICAL RECORDING  
MEDIA USING A PHASE DETECTION METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

10 Hon. Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

15 Prior to examination and calculation of fees, please enter the following  
Preliminary Amendment and the accompanying remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

20 1. (Amended) An apparatus for reading from or writing to optical recording  
media, comprising:  
25 a photodetector [(10)] with at least two detector elements [(A, B, C, D).];  
[and] a phase forming unit [(13)] for detecting a phase difference [( $\phi$ )  
between output signals [(A, B, C, D, A+C, B+D)] of the photodetector [(10)], wherein  
the apparatus further comprises]:

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30 an edge sequence detector [(14)] for detecting [the] a sequence of edges of the  
output signals [(A, B, C, D, A+C, B+D).]; and  
a signal blocking unit [(15)] for blocking [the] an output signal [( $\phi$ )] of the  
phase [detector (13)] forming unit.

35 2. (Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the signal  
blocking unit [(15)] blocks a signal which is derived from the output signal [( $\phi$ )] of  
the phase [detector (13)] forming unit or is used to form [this] the output signal [( $\phi$ )].

3. (Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 2, further comprising  
diagonal summation signal forming units [(11, 12) whose] having inputs [are]